



501.40830X00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): HIROI et al

Serial No.: 09/986,299

Filed: November 8, 2001

For: Pattern Inspection Method And Apparatus

Group: 2621

Examiner:

**RECEIVED**  
**MAR 05 2002**  
Technology Center 2600

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 4, 2002

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the original specification with the attached Substitute Specification.

**IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:**

Please replace the original abstract with the attached abstract.